REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 27, 2006. Claims 1, 3, 6-10, 12, 15-19, 21, 24-27, 30-34, 36-41, and 57-59 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 10, 19, and 32-34, 36-41, the independent claims, have been amended to define more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1, 10, 19, 32-34, and 36-41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite.

The claims have been carefully reviewed and amended as deemed necessary to ensure that they conform fully to the requirements of Section 112, second paragraph, with special attention to the points raised at pages 2-6 of the Office Action. It is believed that the rejection under Section 112, second paragraph, has been obviated, and its withdrawal is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 6, 10, 12, 15, 19, 21, 24, 31-34, 36-41, and 57-59 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from U.S. Patent No. 5,889,952 ("Hunnicutt") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,971,023 ("Mackinson"). Claims 7-9, 16-18, and 25-27 were rejected as obvious from Hunnicutt in view of Makinson and U.S. Patent No. 5,550,968 ("Miller"). Claim 30 was rejected as obvious over Hunnicutt in view of Makinson and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2003/0028653 to New, JR.

Generally speaking, the invention is directed to access control in cases in which a request for a single operation, e.g., a file copy operation, is achieved by a series of application program interface (API) operation requests (see, e.g., page 35, line 23, through

page 36, line 1). A file copy operation ordinarily may be realized by a single command, such as a "Copy" command of the Windows® operating system. Alternatively, a series of operations that open a file to be copied and save the opened file with new file name can substantially achieve the same result as the file copy operation using the "Copy" command. This series of operations includes: opening a first file, writing contents of the first file to a memory, generating a second file, loading the contents from the memory to the second file, etc.

Conventionally, access control for a single operation request by one command such as the "Copy" command is realized by setting access rights to a file being requested. However, in order to execute access control for a single operation realized by a series of API operation requests, the operation requests must be monitored to identify series of operation requests that correspond to a single operation. To realize this in the present invention, a correspondence between a process (i.e., an API) and a computer resource relating to the process is registered to a storage medium (see, e.g., page 37, lines 15-19), and then it can be determined whether a series of operation requests between the registered process and the registered computer resource corresponds to a single operation for which access control is desired, e.g., a copy operation (see, e.g., page 41, line 5, through page 43, line 19).

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, an interception step of intercepting an operation request for a first computer resource from a process, before the operation request is transferred to the operating system, and if the process holds the first computer resource, registering a correspondence between the process and the first computer resource in a

storage medium resulting in a registered process and a registered computer resource. Claim 1 further recites an access right determination step including monitoring a series of operation requests associated with the registered process and the registered computer resource to recognize when the series of operation requests, considered together, has the effect of outputting the registered computer resource to a second computer resource.

The general nature of Honeycutt, and of Makinson, has been discussed adequately in previous papers, and it is not believed necessary to repeat those discussions.

It is submitted that Honeycutt does not disclose registering a correspondence between a process and a computer resource, if the process holds the resource, as recited in Claim 1. The Examiner simply has not addressed this recitation of Claim 1.

Nor does Honeycutt disclose determining if a series of operation requests associated with a registered process/resource represents outputting a first computer resource to a second computer resource. Claim 1 has been clarified to even further emphasize this feature. The other cited references, including Makinson, do not remedy the shortcomings of Hunnicut in this regard.

The Examiner points to Hunnicut's access control list (see the Office Action at the bottom of page 7) as corresponding to the claimed management table. However, the access control list merely identifies, in a conventional manner, file access rights based on individual operations, such as read, write, etc. Hunnicut's access control list does not provide access rights based on a relationship between a source (first) resource and a

destination (second) resource, and therefore cannot provide the functionality of the claimed management table.

Nothing has been found or pointed out in Hunnicut or Makinson, whether considered either separately or in any permissible combination (if any) would teach or suggest (1) an interception step that includes registering a correspondence between a process and a first computer resource in a storage medium, if the process holds the first computer resource, resulting in a registered process and a registered computer resource, and (2) an access right determination step that includes monitoring a series of operation requests associated with the registered process and the registered computer resource to recognize when the series of operation requests, considered together, has the effect of outputting the registered computer resource to a second computer resource, as recited in Claim 1.

Thus, the combination of Hunnicutt and Makinson, assuming *arguendo* that such a combination would be proper, does not teach or suggest all of the features of Claim 1.

Accordingly, Claim 1 is seen to be clearly allowable over the combination of Hunnicutt and Makinson.

Independent Claims 10, 19, 32-34, and 36-41 recite features which are similar in many relevant respects to those discussed above with respect to Claim 1 and therefore are also believed to be patentable over Hunnicutt and Makinson, taken separately or in any permissible combination (if any), for the reasons discussed above.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against the independent claims herein. All of the independent claims are therefore believed patentable over the cited art.

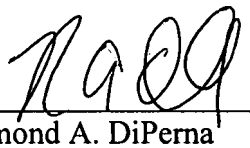
The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

This Amendment After Final Action is believed clearly to place this application in condition for allowance and, therefore, its entry is believed proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment After Final Action, as an earnest effort to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact Applicants' undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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